

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2016 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 683**

BY SENATORS MAYNARD, ASHLEY, BOLEY, CARMICHAEL,

GAUNCH, MILLER, ROMANO, WOELFEL, PLYMALE,

STOLLINGS, BLAIR, CLINE AND LAIRD

[Introduced February 22, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

- 1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §20-5-23, relating to allowing old and abandoned railroad beds that trail along  
3 rivers, lakes or creeks to be used for biking, hiking or off road vehicle use.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

- 1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
2 section, designated §20-5-23, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 5. PARKS AND RECREATION.**

**§20-5-23. Old and abandoned railroad beds trailing rivers, lakes or creeks, open for  
recreational use.**

- 1 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, old and abandoned railway beds that  
2 meander along rivers, lakes or creeks in this state may be used for lawful recreational purposes,  
3 including, but not limited to, biking, hiking or off-road vehicle use.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide that old and abandoned railway beds that meander along rivers, lakes or creeks may be used for lawful recreational purposes.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.